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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Community Access Program (CAP)

Additional CAP funding will be added to the programming budget to provide 10 of the 11 branch locations with programming staff. Programs being offered include one-on-one computer tutorials, pre-school story and craft programs as well as after school craft and kids computer programs.

It is hoped that 2005-2006 CAP funding will allow for the continuation of this programming in the upcoming fiscal year. The response from the public has been very encouraging.

Branch Services

During December, several special events were held throughout AVRL:

- Berwick Librarian Lynn Silver held a reading of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* in conjunction with the Town's 24th annual Santa Claus celebrations.

- Author, artist and Hockey Heritage Society founder Garth Vaughan was at the Windsor Regional Library on December 1 for a children's reading from his new book *Tommy's New Block Skates*.

- The Kentville Library hosted a special holiday craft fun session for children on December 10. On

Dec.18, the Library offered a music of the season program where local musicians shared their love of music with visiting patrons.

- The Rosa M. Harvey Middleton & District Library also hosted special Christmas related craft and story time events for two age groups of children on December 18.

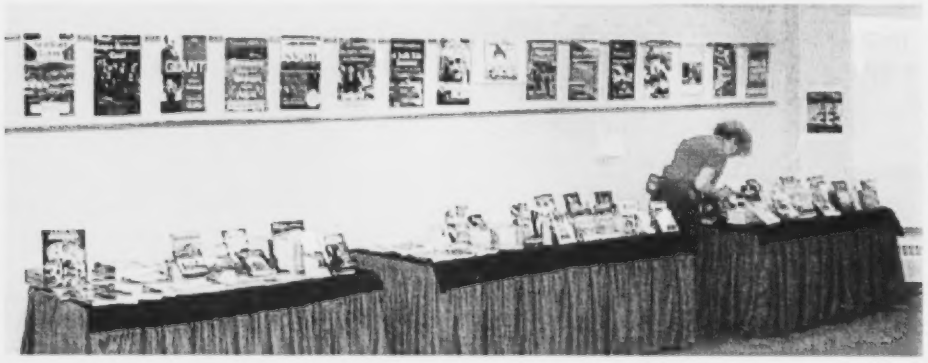
- The bookmobile serving the eastern part of the Annapolis Valley participated in the New Minas Santa Claus parade again this year.

Four branch employees attended a Program Sharing Session hosted by Colchester-East Hants and Pictou-Antigonish staff. Fourteen people from five regions exchanged ideas, handouts and practical information on a variety of program topics for various age groups. AVRL staff returned with an infusion of enthusiasm, with new projects already being discussed and implemented.

AVRL will be receiving $9,000 over the next several months to further develop and implement programs that support the provincial *Read to Me!* project. These funds come from the IWK External Grants Program and are the result of a provincially submitted *Read to Me!* proposal, to which four libraries provided input. This money will allow the three current *Babies & Books* sessions to be extended into the spring and fall, will make possible training/orientations for staff to implement and assess the baby programs in other branches, and will see $2,500 help rejuvenate the baby and toddler-age book collection. The infusion of funds will allow AVRL to assess new baby programs for the region and in turn develop and adapt future programs accordingly.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

On December 4, 2004 the McConnell Library hosted a gathering to celebrate the 75th book published by Breton Books. Breton Books was started in 1986 by Ron Caplan to preserve out-of-print books on Cape Breton's people and history, as well as publish new works. Caplan's influence in preserving the voice of Cape Breton goes back to the early 1970's when he published the first issue of *Cape Breton's Magazine*. He explained that his move into publishing books was natural, the result of an exposure over time to books about Cape Breton.



Setting up for a celebration of Breton Books held at the McConnell Library.

Some of the authors published by Breton Books were at the event for book readings and signings; including New Waterford writer Rennie MacKenzie, author of the 75th Breton Book *That Bloody Cape*

Breton Coal. A selection of books were on sale and proceeds went to support the MacConnel Library's book fund. Wendy Bergfeldt, host of CBC's Mainstreet was on hand to broadcast the show live from the celebration.

Rennie MacKenzie reads from his book *That Bloody Cape Breton Coal*.

Gaelic educator Finlay MacLeoid spoke at the McConnell Library in December during a two week visit to Cape Breton Island. MacLeiod is the chief executive of Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich, the Gaelic Preschool Council in Scotland. His visit to Cape Breton was initiated by the Nova Scotia Highland Village and the Gaelic College. Both organizations are interested in the preservation of the Gaelic language and culture and wanted MacLeoid's insights on a gaelic-learning program which he has spearheaded in Scotland.

MacLeoid spoke on the importance of sustaining Gaelic by making it a living language, a language used in the home. More specifically, he presented a language learning strategy, Total Physical esponse (TPR), which has a method that encourages learning a language naturally and effectively. MacLeoid was especially pleased to see that the McConnell Library has a collection of adult and children's Gaelic books.

At the end of January, Shirley Hefferon, Baddeck's Library Assistant for 16 years, retired. Over the years, Shirley saw the Library go through three different moves, various staff and technological changes; through it all she served the public with warmth and kindness. Shirley is originally from Indian Brook, located on the north shore of Cape Breton, and where she enjoys spending her summer months. As a mother and grandmother, Shirley is very involved in her church and community. Clare Cameron, another staff member at the Baddeck Library said that Shirley enjoys traveling and adventure and for many years she has been driving a bookmobile across Victoria County. She has been to Scotland and across the United States, on a truck-driving run with one of her sons. Clare praised her friend and co-worker with these thoughtful words, "I think a lot of people who have gotten to know Shirley over the years, with the Baddeck Library and Victoria Bookmobile feel very comfortable with her. Like family." All the best Shirley!

Left to right: Baddeck Library staff members Clare Cameron and Shirley Hefferon.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

In The Know

In November, author Bruce Nunn, Nova Scotia's *Mr. Know-It-All*, was welcomed to the Truro Branch by an attentive audience of 15. Later the same month and early in December, author/actor Michael Bawtree, reading from his book *Joe Howe to the Rescue,* enthralled audiences of 60 students, teachers and parents at the Mount Uniacke Library and an audience of 40 at the Stewiacke Library.

Sharing In The Community

With the holiday season come deeds of good will and feelings of gratitude. In Mount Uniacke, staff put together gardening baskets to be auctioned at the Uniacke Wishgivers' fund raiser for underprivileged children. Branch assistant Laura Middleton worked with her craft group in the library to make Christmas stockings to help decorate the village and decorations for the library tree. The Stewiacke Library sponsored a wreath as part of the town's decorating program. The Truro Library's festive tree sported decorations with a purpose. Staff and public covered it with colourful mittens, hats, scarves, socks and the like, all to be given to the Christmas Index Program and the Colchester Food Bank.

Cathy Newton, Youth Services, models a pair of warm, handmade mittens from the Truro Branch Library's *mitten tree*.

Welcome News

The week before Christmas brought the welcome news of a gift from the provincial government – a technology grant of $32,322. The timing couldn't have been better. An order for 21 new computers was in the works to replace the 11 five-year-old units in the Truro Library Gates Learning Centre and to provide 10 units for an expanded Elmsdale Library and Learning Centre when it moves to new quarters in the East Hants Resource Centre.

Other Tech News

Mount Uniacke has a new colour laser printer thanks to a successful proposal from the local CAP committee for funding under Industry Canada's Community Access Program. Beginning January 9, Sunday afternoon service expanded in Truro with the opening of the Gates computer lab. Response has been strong.

Literacy Grant

CEHRL was one of four grateful recipients of a $9,000 grant each from the IWK Health Centre Foundation to assist in developing library programs for infants. The funds will be used to purchase board books and to facilitate training, program preparation and promotion.

Fighting Crime One Book At A Time

This is the rallying cry and in New Glasgow on December 14, Premier John Hamm launched a poster and new web site **www.parl.ns.ca/adoptalibrary** to help spread the word about the *Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program*, which sees policing agencies partnering with public and school libraries to promote literacy. The police act as the *bridge* between the community and the library by raising community support for library programs and activities designed to foster reading and lifelong learning. Youth Services Administrator Lynda Marsh and Sergeant Lee Henderson of the Truro Police Service attended the launch. Sergeant Henderson appears on the poster with Program founder Corporal John Kennedy of the RCMP.

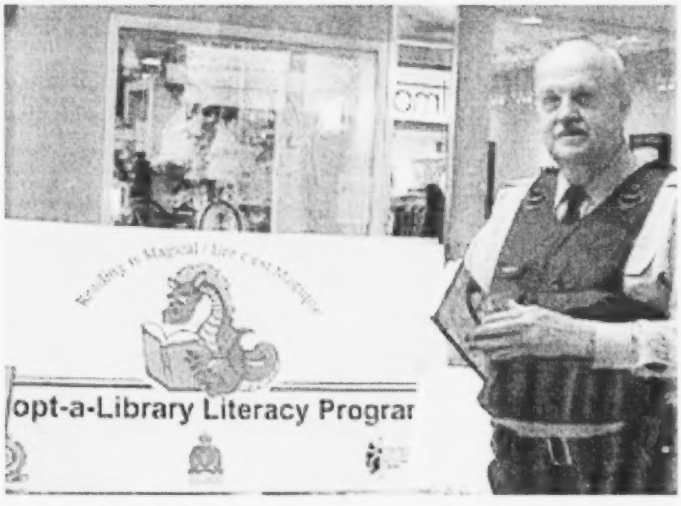
RCMP Corporal John Kennedy, Premier John Hamm and Sergeant Lee Henderson endorse the partnership between police services and libraries.

Just Me And My Dad

A series of outings for dads and their preschoolers organized by Maggie's Place, included a visit to the Truro Library on Saturday morning, January 22. Staff welcomed the opportunity to help choose picture books that they would have fun reading together.

The Gift Of Literacy, One Book At A Time

Family Literacy Day, January 27 saw the launch of this year's winter reading program. Given the recent encounters with blizzards, the theme of *Snow is falling, books are calling* is very apropos. Readers of all ages, and readers-in-the-making are welcome to join, have some fun and maybe win some prizes, too. The same day, library staff members Lynda Marsh and Wendy Robichaud joined RCMP Constable Al Hanlon and Truro Police Sergeant Lee Henderson to promote the *Adopt-A-Library Program* with a display in the Truro Mall. Youngsters were encouraged to look through a large bin to choose a book that they could take home.



RCMP Constable Al Hanon takes time to read part of a teen novel at the Family Literacy Day display at the Truro Mall.

To assist other groups celebrating Family Literacy Day, a selection of books received through the

Adopt-A-Library Program were given to FutureWorx in Truro and to organizers in Tatamagouche, where the library was one of several drop off points for book donations from the public. Each group aimed to promote the importance of reading and to give a book to each child participating in the festivities.

Staff News

CEHRL enjoys a stable work force; one indication – two staff members recently became grandmothers for the first time, each welcoming a granddaughter into her family. When they began their careers at the library, their daughters were only 7 and 6 years old!

At the January CEHRL staff meeting, Brian Blois, Truro's Fire Inspector/Fire Prevention Officer, gave an in-depth session on fire prevention, testing the knowledge of the staff. The session was organized by CEHRL's Health and Safety Committee.

Brian Blois, Truro's Fire Inspector, presenting a fire prevention session to CEHRL staff.

Public Libraries of the Future

Not snow, wind or a power outage could defeat the *Public Libraries of the Future Conference* held in Halifax, January 21. What will public library service look like in 15 to 20 years? High calibre speakers/ practitioners from Halifax, Hamilton, Seattle and Toronto set the stage for lively discussions by delegates from all four Atlantic Provinces, including CEHRL's Board Chair John Patterson, Truro CAO Jim Langille, Automated and Technical Services Administrator Bill Morgan and Regional Library Director Janet Pelley. Thanks to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library for conceiving and organizing the event. The Conference report is eagerly awaited.

Youth Services of the Future

Looking to the future, youth services staff and representatives from outreach services and branches outside Truro met January 10 to develop a mission statement for CEHRL's service to youth. The lively two hour session at the Truro Branch was followed by a day-long retreat at the Debert Hospitality Centre on January 3,1 where participants reviewed current activities and planned for the future.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

There are a few new faces at CURL. In November the library said goodbye to Systems Librarian Jolene Shaw who accepted a job as a school coordinator for the Chignecto Central School Board. Jolene's replacement is Marcus Leja who began work in January. Marcus graduated from Dalhousie University's School of Library and Information Studies in 2002 and also has a degree in Engineering from DalTech. Previously, Marcus worked in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Helen Triff has been hired on a one year HRSDC grant to serve as a Special Events Coordinator for CURL. Helen is a teacher and previously worked for the Military Family Resource Centre in Greenwood. She will be responsible for helping to organize special events throughout the region such as the NSLA / LBANS conference, author readings and guest speakers, as well as promoting the Library and its services.

HRSDC has also provided funding for staffing at CAP sites. Steve Weatherbee has been hired to serve as the CAP Computer Technician and will provide technical support to all CAP sites in Cumberland County working from the Library headquarters office. Five other people have been hired to work as trainers at CAP sites, as well as work on the websites and other special projects. Each CAP trainer is responsible for providing training at two sites in the community. Five part-time student trainers have also been hired for non-library CAP sites, thanks to funding from OED.

Left to right: CURL's newest staff are Steve Weatherbee, Marcus Leja and Helen Triff.

The IWK External Grants Foundation will provide funding for CURL to purchase books for babies and to conduct programming for babies and their parents in all library branches. The Amherst Branch has been offering the very popular *Babes In Bookland* program for nearly a year. The additional funding will allow CURL to offer this program in other library branches.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

The *Historic Guysborough* book launch held in early December was well received, as a capacity crowd gathered in Guysborough to welcome Dr. John Grant. The evening was co-sponsored by Nimbus Publishing and the Mulgrave Road Theatre who hosted the evening presentation. ECRL Chief Librarian Dave Cumby and Penelope Jackson, representing Nimbus, were on hand to welcome the

crowd and introduce Dr. Grant. Dr. Grant's book is one of 26 titles that has been published in the *Images of Our Past* series, but only the first title to be produced within the Library's coverage area.

Dr. John Grant, centre, is shown receiving his gift of a walking stick and hiking book presented by Chief Librarian Dave Cumby. Also on hand for the presentation was Nimbus Representative Penelope Jackson.

Mulgrave Branch hosted a special Christmas Open House in December, welcoming town officials, Library Board members and staff, and area residents. The celebration, co-sponsored by ECRL and the Town of Mulgrave, was held to highlight the recent renovations to the Mulgrave Branch, including improvements to the local history and genealogical services. Projects included a re-design of the Library's exterior wall/display unit, installation of an accessible ramp, washroom and automatic door, new air conditioners, a custom-designed circulation desk area, re-organization of the reference and local history collection, plus the recent purchase of a digital microfilm scanner/printer and some furnishings.

Library Assistant Joyce Oliver-Snair demonstrates the new digital microfilm scanner/printer to (left to right) ECRL Board Chair Joe Walsh, Mulgrave Deputy Mayor George Freer and local history researcher Roy Einarson.

Christmas festivities were held throughout the region in December. Santa attended the annual

Christmas story time at the Canso Branch Library, attracting a capacity crowd for stories and treats.

Santa visits the Canso Branch library.

Children at the Canso Branch Library eagerly await Santa's arrival.

Petit de Grat children were also treated to stories and treats as part of their 6-week family literacy program for pre-schoolers and their parents or caregivers. The program was co-sponsored by the Family Place Resource Centre based in Port Hawkesbury.

Joanne Connors of the Family Place Resource Center entertains children at the Petit de Grat Branch.

Gampo Abbey, a traditional monastic setting for the practice and study of Buddhism, is located in Pleasant Bay, Cape Breton. It is a place where nuns, monks and lay people practice Buddhist meditation, study the Dharma and work in the community **www.gampoabbey.org**. The residents are avid readers and use the library's Books by Mail service on a regular basis. Resident T. Palmo states "It is great that I can ask for books via e-mail! Thank you very much for making it so convenient to follow my life-long passion, reading."

Residents of the Gampo Abbey, Pleasant Bay, Cape Breton.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

New Portal for HPL

Halifax Public Libraries is pleased to announce Roots To The Past: Local History and Genealogy @ the Library **www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/roots**, a new portal on its e-branch. This portal is the entry way for both novice and experienced researchers.

Features include:
- Ten simple steps to start research in either local history or genealogy.
- Overviews of the local history and genealogy collection.

- Brand New! HRM's Historic Communities resource list.
- Links to other online local history and genealogy web sites.
- A special *For Kids* section, ideal for students of all ages.
- Virtual Halifax Literary Walking Tour, with printable map, guide and resource lists.

Robert Pope Foundation Donates Directories to Halifax Public Libraries

The Robert Pope Foundation published the *Directory for Cancer Support Services in Metro Halifax* for 2004 and kindly donated enough copies so that HPL could have at least one copy in each branch.

G. Ross Langley, Professor Emeritus Medicine, Dalhousie University states in the forward "This book, prepared to help patients, families and health care professionals more easily identify available cancer support services, represents the first collaborative effort between the Robert Pope Foundation and the Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation."

The Robert Pope Foundation was established in 1992 after the death of artist Robert Pope.

Family Literacy Day Celebrated at Halifax Public Libraries

With more than 2.5 million visitors in the past year, HPL had a lot to celebrate on Family Literacy Day. Created by ABC CANADA Foundation in 1999, and held on January 27 each year, the day promotes the importance of reading and learning as a family.

"For the Halifax Public Libraries, Family Literacy Day is an opportunity to celebrate what we do all year round, which is offering innovative and exciting programs that celebrate reading, listening, learning, participating and interacting," stated Tracey Jones, Literacy, ESL and Diversity Manager. "Besides encouraging reading habits beginning at birth, the Library is also a leader in providing reading support in the later years. Reading Support programs are offered for children, adults and members of our ESL communities," explained Jones.

This Family Literacy Day, Keshen Goodman Public Library played host to Premier John Hamm and Minister of Education Jamie Muir .

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program

Since its inception in 2000, the *Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program* has received over $1 million dollars in donated books, reading supplies, library equipment and reading incentives from local and international companies. With interest and membership continuing to grow each month; it was time for this reading initiative to have its own poster. With the assistance of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and some willing subjects to photograph, a poster was created to help spread the word of this unique program. To mark the launch of the poster and revised website, a ceremony was held in December at the New Glasgow Library. Along with municipal dignitaries, Premier John Hamm was invited to say a few words about the importance of libraries and reading to our children.

RCMP Constable John Kennedy and Premier John Hamm with children featured on the new *Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program* poster.

Career Assistance Workshops

Finding work can be daunting at the best of times. To make this task a bit easier, the Career Connections Resource Centre of New Glasgow and PARL have formed a new partnership to assist Pictou County residents in finding employment by hosting a series of career assistance workshops. Through this outreach service, it is the goal of these organizations to provide basic career guidance and job search strategies to persons on the job hunt. Sessions were held at the Pictou and River John Libraries throughout the months of December and January. Trainers focused on specific areas such as career counseling, job search strategies, resume development, interview techniques, cover letters, finding the right career based on your attributes and labour market Information.

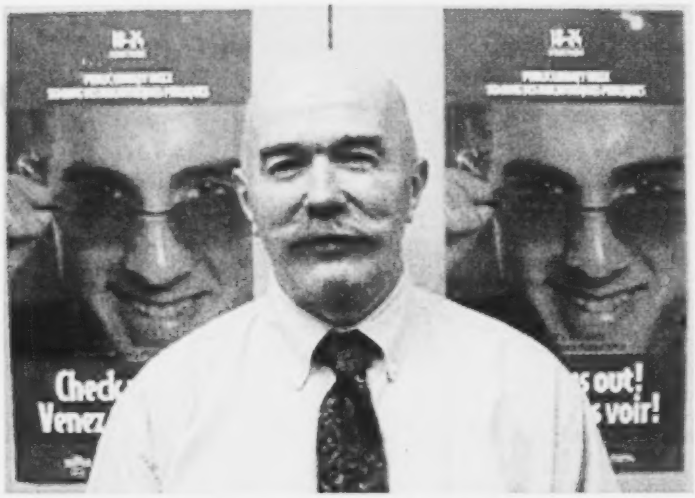
Youth Technology Trainers on the Job

Over the past five years, PARL has hired a large number of young people entering the job market as Technology Trainers under the Community Access Program. This winter PARL announced that a new group of computer savvy trainers will be providing this valuable service once again to its patrons thanks to an Industry Canada job-placement grant. With this service, library patrons who do not have computers in their homes or have access to them in the workplace can now visit these public locations and enjoy all the benefits offered by the Internet. Always busy and always appreciated, the young workers will be in place at the River John, Stellarton, Westville and Trenton Branches and at the Scotsburn CAP site until the end of February. The trainers are available during evenings and Saturdays only excluding the Scotsburn site, which will be closed on Saturdays. In the coming weeks, some of the locations will be offering more focused programs. As of January 24, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Scotsburn CAP site began offering an introductory course to Mircrosoft Office for four consecutive weeks. Topics to be covered include Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft FrontPage and Microsoft Excel.

New Book Donation Policy

As with most library systems around the province, PARL welcomes the donation of books from the public for its book collection. Contributed items are reviewed per the Library's requirements,

catalogued and then shipped to the shelves of the seven library branches. Recently, due to an increase in the shear volume of incoming items, limited processing space, and the amount of time and energy of work required to process articles, it was necessary to review the donation policy and issue new guidelines. Since that time the large quantity of books coming from the branches to headquarters has slowed considerably. New rules for accepting specific items exclude: books in poor condition, National Geographic magazines, Reader's Digest selections, encyclopedias and other multi-volume sets, and university text books. Books received in satisfactory condition, but which do not make it to the shelves due to collection development reasons are given to local non-profit organizations for fund raising projects.



To help mark World AIDS Day, Wednesday, December 1, 2004, the New Glasgow Library Program Room hosted a talk by Truro resident Al MacNutt, founder of the Truro Outreach Project which is now the Northern AIDS Connection Society. As its current director, McNutt heads up HIV/AIDS prevention and education initiatives in this region with his presentation, *HIV Does Not Discriminate . . . Do You?*

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

TD Friends of The Environment Foundation Grant

SSRL received a generous grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. The $1,000 grant was used to purchase a variety of adult and children's books on the environment, with topics ranging from alligators and oceans to puffins and life in an old growth forest.

The TD Friends of the Environment grant, the second to the Library in as many years, allows SSRL to continue to expand its collection of current material on a variety of environmental issues. Young people who want to research issues or find out about an ecosystem or a specific animal will have access to an enhanced library collection. Resources are available to all areas of the region. Boy Scouts or Girl Guides doing a nature project, seniors protesting a proposed fish farm, children investigating pond life for a school project, teens doing a paper on clear cutting - all use the library and will benefit in various ways from the improved collection. The new books have been in circulation only a short time, but have already been borrowed dozens of times. SSRL thanks the TD Friends of the Environment!

Adopt-A-Book Campaign a Success

Libraries in Lunenburg and Queens Counties have 362 more books, videotapes, audio books and other materials as a result of SSRL's annual *Adopt-A-Book* campaign. While the Library is always thrilled to add a large number of new books to the collection, the continuing support demonstrated by

the patrons, local businesses and friends in many communities is even more exciting.

Adopt-A-Book shows SSRL each year that people care very deeply about their library service, so much so that they are willing to donate to the cause of more reading for everyone. As the cost of books and resources in other formats continues to rise, the public library system ensures that everyone has free access to a wealth of information. This year generous readers contributed $10,000 to SSRL's campaign.

Lighthouse Publishing is a big reason for the continuing success. Once again, Lighthouse Publishing stepped up to the plate as official sponsor of the campaign, allowing the Library to spread the word about *Adopt-A-Book* with free ad space and 10,000 colourful bookmarks. Atlantic Books Ltd., of Truro, sponsored t-shirts, which staff wore each Friday to keep the campaign in the public eye.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library held their first meeting of the new year on January 12 at the Bridgewater Library. Their fundraising efforts in 2004 resulted in over $3,000. They voted to contribute $2,000 of this amount to offset the cost of the refurbishment of the Mobile Library, allowing SSRL to take full advantage of a challenge grant of up to $1,000 from the Change Canada Charitable Foundation. Change Canada will contribute $1 for each additional $2 raised. SSRL thanks the Friends!

Recently, Friends of the Library (left to right) Liz and Joris Ekering presented a cheque to SSRL Board Vice-Chair Marie Hogan-Loker at the Lunenburg Library. The Friends contributed the money to help offset the cost of the recent Mobile Library refurbishment.

Programs

What's New for January - March hit the streets just before Christmas. SSRL has a variety of programs and services lined up for the New Year, including the much-loved story time. Other topics include: seniors' cafés, computer instruction for seniors, food allergies, living with grief, knitting /spinning circle, Home Support services, palliative care, a passion for letters, diaries and journals, a passion for lichens and a passion for light. Upcoming theme days/weeks/ months include Family Literacy Day, Freedom To Read Week and African Heritage Month. One thousand copies of each issue of *What's New* are distributed to borrowers, donors, businesses and service organizations. The next issue will appear in

March.

Wireless Trial

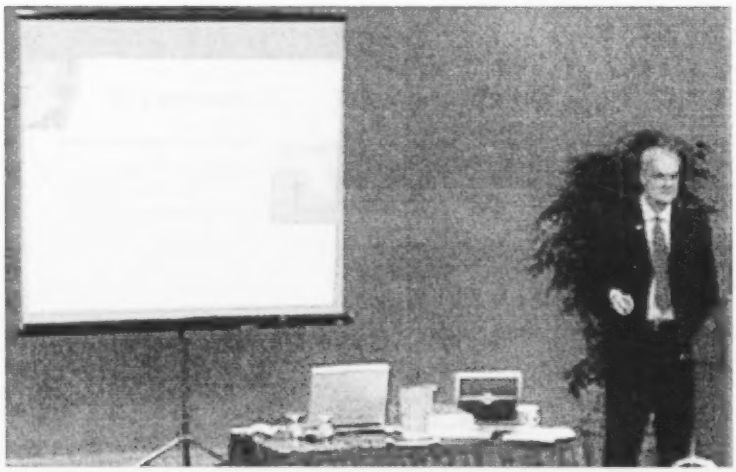
Connecting to the Internet is now simple, safe and easy for SSRL borrowers. The Library is pleased to offer wireless access for a trial period at the Bridgewater, Liverpool and Lunenburg Branches. Patrons can bring their wireless PDA or laptop and cellphone to the library you wish to gain access from. Access is fast, easy and secure and will allow patrons to send and receive email or use their VPN client. The trial period is in effect until the end of February.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF THE FUTURE

Fifty three people braved a January snowstorm to participate in **Public Libraries of the Future** at the Holiday Inn Select in Halifax, January 20-21, 2005. Hosted by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, the conference was the first step in the development of a vision of what public library service will look like by 2020. The keynote speaker was Stephen Abram, President of CLA and VP, Innovation, Sirsi Corp. His address was titled *Influence! Public Libraries Competing in a Googley-eyed World*.

Stephen Abram, CLA President, delivers the keynote address at Public Libraries of the Future.



Right to left: Deborah Jacobs, City Librarian, Seattle Public Library, and Betsy Armstrong, NS

Provincial Librarian.

The morning speakers included Madeleine Lefebvre, University Librarian, Saint Mary's University, who set the stage, outlining where NS public libraries are and where they have come from; Deborah Jacobs, City Librarian, The Seattle Public Library, who spoke about the Libraries for All Campaign in Seattle, and her vision for the public library of the future; and Ken Roberts, Chief Librarian, Hamilton Public Library, who spoke about the impact of technology and the changing physical infrastructure of public libraries. The afternoon speakers were David Chaundy, Senior Economist, Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, who presented the changing demographics and the impact this will have on public library services; and Wendy Newman, Librarian in Residence at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, who spoke on the importance of partnerships for public libraries. The speakers were supplemented by small group discussions, which generated many visions of the future. The sessions were facilitated by Jane Beaumont, Beaumont and Associates, who will also write the conference report.

David Chaundry, Senior Economist, Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.

Wendy Newman, Librarian in Residence, University of Toronto Faculty of Information Science.

Participants represented a wide variety of interests. One thing they all had in common was an interest and a stake in the public library of the future. Public library staff and trustees from all four Atlantic Provinces, university, college and special library representatives, and municipal government representatives spent a productive and energized day looking into the future of public library service.

A report from **Public Libraries of the Future** will be prepared and released in the near future.

ALA MIDWINTER, JANUARY 2005

More than 13,000 people from across North America attended the Midwinter Meetings of the American Library Association in Boston on January 14-19. Two large rooms in the Hynes Convention Center were filled with 450 exhibits, providing a wide cross section of library products and services. The Canadian Library Association (CLA) was one of the exhibitors, and Michael Colborne worked in the CLA booth during the conference. CLA has been contracted by the Media Awareness Network to promote the Web Awareness program to American libraries, and the Midwinter Meetings provided an excellent opportunity to reach a large number of people.

The CLA booth at ALA staffed by Michael Colborne.

While in Boston, Michael attended **Reinventing Libraries for the 21st Century: a Visioning Workshop**, a pre-conference session sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Presented by Dave Brier from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, this useful workshop provided an introduction to the discipline of futures research. By the end of the day, the participants had worked through a series of exercises in imagining the future in a series of library situations. Futures researchers always refer to the futures not the future; they see the future as a range of possibilities. This workshop greatly enhanced the ability of the participants to break out of the present and begin to imagine their own visions of the future.

Dr. Norman Horrocks was presented with the **Professor Kaula International Award** at a special presentation during the conference. This Award, established in India in 1975, honours a person who has distinguished himself or herself as a Librarian, Documentalist, or Teacher of Library and Information Science.

TELECONFERENCES AND AUDIO CONFERENCES

So far in 2005 the Provincial Library has hosted an audio conference on *The Blogging Explosion -- Libraries & Weblogs* from the Education Institute: the Learning Programs of the BCLA-LAA-OLA-SLA Partnership and a satellite teleconference from the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois on *Dealing with Difficult People*. On January 18 the audio conference on *The Blogging Explosion* was presented by Darlene Fichter of the University of Saskatchewan Library. Darlene gave an informative presentation on what web logs are, how they can be created and their applications in libraries. The session was mainly attended by Provincial Library staff. In addition, staff from Cape Breton Regional Library, Western Counties Regional Library, Colchester East-Hants Regional Library and South Shore Regional Library listened at their own locations.

The teleconference on *Dealing with Difficult People* was hosted at the Provincial Library on January 21. Debra Wilcox Johnson, a partner in Johnson & Johnson Consulting, a firm specializing in management, evaluation, literacy and training, was the speaker for this. She gave a dynamic and interesting presentation and used humor and vignettes which were acted out to demonstrate how to effectively deal with co-workers and patrons in various problem situations which may arise. Following

the broadcast part of the session, David Hansen, a librarian at Halifax Public Libraries, reinforced what attendees heard in the teleconference when he gave an excellent talk about experiences with problem patrons and pointers on how to deal effectively with these situations. More than 30 staff from public libraries, university libraries, archival institutions, as well as library school students and others attended this teleconference and it was clear that there is a lot of interest in this topic.

Another College of DuPage teleconference will be hosted at the Provincial Library on Friday, February 18, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The topic of this is *Library Marketing: Tips & techniques*. It is part of the College of DuPage's Library Challenges & Opportunities series. Panelists will be Buff Hirko, Statewide Virtual Reference Project Coordinator at Washington State Library; Howard McGinn, Dean of Libraries at Seton Hall University; and Linda Wallace, Library Communication Strategies, Inc., formerly head of ALA's public Information office. The Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services, Atlantic Chapter and the Nova Scotia Library Association are co-sponsoring this teleconference with the Provincial Library and they have arranged for Trudy Amirault, president of NSLA, to speak on the @ Your Library brand and NSLA's involvement with it following the broadcast portion of the program.

Additional audio conferences and College of DuPage teleconferences are scheduled for winter and spring 2005. Here is a list of what is coming up. More information will be sent out about each of these closer to the time that it takes place. To register for any of the sessions contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca or phone 424-2477.

- Education Institute audio conference: *Taking Your Career to the Next Level*. Instructor: Caitlin Williams, President, Successful Working Women and Work Matters, Inc. Wednesday, March 9, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- College of DuPage teleconference: *Reference Tools for the Information Age (Soaring to Excellence series)*. Speakers: TBA. Friday, March 11, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- College of DuPage teleconference: *Library as Place: Where People Want to Be (Library Challenges & Opportunities series)*. Panelists: William Miller, Director of Libraries at Florida Atlantic University; Douglas Zyskowski, Director of the Southfield (Michigan) Public Library, and Ed Rivenburgh, Director of Libraries at SUNY Geneseo. Friday, March 18, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Education Institute audio conference: *TAG: You're It!: Starting and Running a Successful Teen Advisory Group. Instructor*: Lisa Heggum, Youth Services Librarian, Toronto Public Library. Thursday, April 28th, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

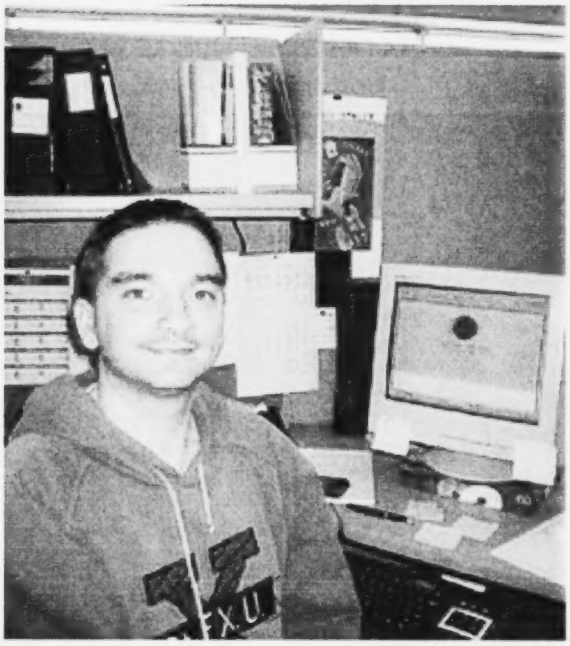
- College of DuPage teleconference: *Library Hot Topics: Discussions and Interviews* (Library Challenges & Opportunities series). Speakers: TBA. Friday, April 29, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Education Institute audio conference: *Smart Search Update* with Rita Vine. Thursday, May 5, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

- Education Institute audio conference: *Getting Started in Statistics: An Introduction to Finding and*

Using Web Resources. Instructor: Rita Vine. Thursday, June 2, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

NEW STAFF



A native of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Chuck Hubbard comes to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library with a background in medical librarianship and website development. Chuck wants to thank all of the staff at NSPL for the friendly welcome and is looking forward to working with regional library staff.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

HACKMATACK NOMINATED AUTHORS ON TOUR IN APRIL

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book award is back for its sixth season with an exciting selection of Canadian books for young readers. A total of 30 outstanding French and English books have been nominated.

While the young readers are busy reading and selecting their favourite books, Hackmatack nominated authors are preparing to tour the Atlantic region this coming April. Approximately 19 of the 33 nominated Canadian writers will visit thousands of their young fans in schools, libraries and communities in all four Atlantic provinces from April 18 to April 22. The readings are made possible with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts. The extensive reach of the tours would not be possible without the on-going collaboration with the Western Counties Regional Library, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, Cumberland Regional Library, South Shore Regional Library, Eastern Counties Regional Library, Annapolis Valley Regional Library and Halifax Public Libraries in Nova Scotia, as well as the New Brunswick Public Library Service, the St. John's Public Libraries in Newfoundland and the Confederation Centre Public Library in Prince Edward Island.

Visiting writers touring New Brunswick will include Deborah Ellis, Julie Lawson, Diane Swanson, Paul Rousseau and Josée Ouimet. Sarah Ellis will be making presentations in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Dorothy Perkyns, Rosemary Sadlier, Maxine Trottier, John Wilson, Pamela Hickman, Shari Graydon, Ainslie Manson, Kristin Bieber Domm, Philip Dinn and Martine Latulippe will be visiting

schools and libraries in Nova Scotia. John Wilson and Carmelita McGrath will tour Newfoundland/ Labrador.

Children will cast votes for their favourites in the English fiction, English non-fiction and French categories by April 1, 2005. This year the Hackmatack Award Ceremony will be held on April 22, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Kenneth C. Rowe Heritage Hall, Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

For more information on how to participate in the Hackmatack reading program and upcoming events, tour the website **www.hackmatack.ca**. To obtain a copy of the colourful 2005 award poster, contact the Hackmatack office at 902-424-3774 or via e-mail at **hackmatack@hackmatack.ca**.

LINKed

To help celebrate Black History Month in February this LINKed column will take a look at some web sites which provide resources on the history and achievements of Blacks, especially in Canada. To begin the *Canadian Heritage* site has a page on *Black History Month*, which includes some historic information and links to other resources, at **http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/pregs/multi/black-noir/index_e.cfm**.

Library and Archives Canada has an interesting web site on the *Anti-Slavery Movement in Canada* at **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/anti-slavery/**. The Exhibition section leads to information on Early Settlements, Black Communities in Canada, Refugees, the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada, and the American Civil War. Click on Links to access *Anti-slavery Issues in Canada, 1830-1870: A Selective Bibliography*.

The site *20 Years of African Heritage* at **http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/ahmonth/** was produced by Halifax Public Libraries (HPL) to mark their 20th year of involvement with African Heritage Month celebrations in 2004. Timelines features links to *Black History of Nova Scotia - A Chronology of Events*. The Learn More section has links to the latest Black Fiction and booklists for African Canadian Fiction and Mysteries featuring African American characters in HPL's catalogue and a link to Kids Resource Lists on African Heritage. A copy of the booklet *African Nova Scotians* which has an extensive list of library resources on this topic can be found in the Resource Lists section. The Activities section has quizzes and word searches which make learning about Black History fun. There are also links to other sites with information about Blacks in Nova Scotia.

A very useful and free resource is the 1999 edition of *The Encyclopaedia Britannica Guide to Black History* at **http://search.eb.com/blackhistory/**. Although much of the information here is American, it will still be a valuable reference source for Canadian users. Browse in the Timeline and Eras in Black History sections for information on the personalities and events during different time periods in Black History. The Articles A-Z section lists all articles in the encyclopedia alphabetically in two sections which you can browse in - Biographies or Events & Institutions.

Black Canadian Studies at **http://www.library.dal.ca/subjects/blacksub.htm** is one of Dalhousie University Libraries' guides to print, electronic and web resources. Scroll down to the section on Internet Resources for links to Nova Scotian, Canadian and American web sites as well as sites on

African History.

African Canadian Online at **http://www.yorku.ca/aconline/** provides information on African Canadians and their work in the areas of culture, dance, film, theatre, literature, music and visual art. There are also links to other relevant sites. This site is presented by the Centre for the Study of Black Cultures in Canada, York University.

Web sites which were featured in previous *Linked* columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at **morrisc@gov.ns.ca**.

PROFESSIONAL COLUMN

In this month's column, two recent additions to the professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send interlibrary loan requests via e-mail to **inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca**.

Christopher, Connie - *Empowering your library a guide to improving service, productivity, & participation.* Chicago American Library Association, 2003. Call # PROF 023 Chr

The major premise of this book is that as libraries try to remain major sources for information in the future, they need to focus on their staff. The author argues that every staff member has a stake in the library's future and suggests ways to use the talents of and energize all employees. Suggested strategies are practical - how to motivate, communicate and build leaders. In particular, the book suggests ways to overcome resistance to change and to encourage risk taking. There are guidelines on developing emotional intelligence, tables of best practices, and checklists to gauge mastery of motivational skills which will be helpful to departmental heads as well as library administrators.

Wallace, Linda K.- *Libraries, mission & marketing: writing mission statements that work.* Chicago American Library Association, c2004. Call # PROF 027 Wal

The author, an experienced library communications professional, explains why libraries need mission statements and offers strategies for writing and implementing an effective statement. She compiles more than one hundred varied samples of on-target library mission statements which are organized by type of library and further divided into sub-categories.

The Disseminator is an electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, 3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4X8. TEL (902) 424-2457; FAX (902) 424-0633

http://www.library.ns.ca/publications/disseminator/

Comments on or suggestions for The Disseminator should be directed to Jill Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca

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